

Appl. No. : 09/865,125
Filed : May 24, 2001

REMARKS

A. Introduction

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application. While Applicants acknowledge that this application is under Final Rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the current Amendment merely places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this Amendment.

Claims 1-28 and 43-51 are pending in the application. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-28 and 43 are allowed. Applicants have added Claims 44-51, dependent upon allowable Claim 43, to further clarify Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 44-51 add no new matter, and require no substantive examination. Applicants have canceled Claims 29, 30 and 38-42 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these and other similar claims in later filed continuation applications.

Applicants submit that this application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, and Applicants earnestly request such action. Below, Applicants address each of the Examiner's reasons for rejection.

B. Gibbs

The Examiner rejected Claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,443,244 to Gibbs. Applicants respectfully disagree that Claims 29 and 30 are anticipated by Gibbs. Nevertheless, in order to expedite the issuance of the remaining claims, Applicants have canceled Claims 29 and 30 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these and other similar claims in later filed continuation applications.

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CONCLUSION

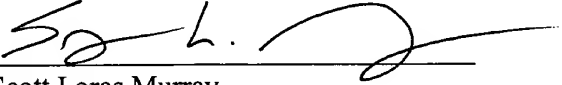
For the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. If there is any further hindrance to allowance of the pending claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 5-12-04

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